

## *HISTORY*

*1924*

The congregation of saints in Jesus Christ meeting at 2255 Totten Street, Windsor, had its beginning at an open-air meeting held in this city on August 24, 1924. Barclay Taberner and Bro. Moore were the speakers. A gospel service was held that evening at the Odd Fellow's Hall, Wyandotte Street West, with Nelson Wearing doing the speaking.

Some of the brethren attending the first meetings of the congregation held that August 1924 were: James and Lily Atherton, Peter and Ada Atherton, Gilbert Atherton, Eleanor Barry, Daniel and Rachael Bateman, Adam and Peggy Bruce, Harold Barr, Nellie Daniels, May Daniels, Leonard Daniels, Robert Dockeray, Edward Farnen, Richard Helling, Robert Montgomery, Nelson and Margaret Wearing and Charles Wren.

Lily Atherton, one of the original members, is still with us, but is confined to a nursing home and unable to attend the services. Robert Dockeray after a lengthy illness, left this life on December 11, 1993.

The first officers of the congregation at its beginning here in Windsor were as follows. Elders: Peter Atherton, Daniel Bateman, Nelson Wearing. Deacons: James Atherton, Adam Bruce, Harold Daniels, Charles Wren. Secretary: Peter Atherton. Treasurer: Harold Daniels.

*1925*

From such a humble beginning, the congregation progressed to meeting at the Bridge Avenue School on Wyandotte Street West. In September, property was purchased at Campbell and Field Avenue (now College Avenue), and a basement meeting house was built on that property. The congregation continued to hold occasional river-front outdoor meetings, and enjoyed a period of togetherness during adverse conditions and times.

The moves the congregation made to the Bridge Avenue School and to College and Campbell Avenues drew many members from the neighborhood. Some remembered names were John and Sarah Bell, James and Eliza Dawson, Florence Thompson, Herbert and Edith Iliffe, Annie Autterson, Stella Hicks, Eliza Landgraff and Matilda McDougall. These were added to by a number of members who transferred from overseas such as

Tom and Eleanor Quayle, Margaret Wren, Polly Bate (Rambo), George Bruce, Harry Topping, Albert and Martha Fargher, Arthur and Alice Thompson.

Of this number, we still are blessed with the faithful attendance and support of Polly Rambo.

### *1926 - 1929*

In October 1926, William Horrocks, John Bell and Thomas Atherton were appointed as deacons. The following October, Albert Fargher, James Dawson and Herbert Iliffe were appointed as deacons. The October after that, William Horrocks and Charles Wren were appointed as elders.

The early work was assisted by many members who came from the Detroit area, among them being Ted Rockliffe, Harmand Black, the Billy Prisks, Walter Kendalls, Jack Wall and Daniel Bateman.

During the late twenties, a number left our area to return to the British Isles. Some went to other parts of Canada as a result of very depressed time in the economy. John and Sarah Bell moved to Northern Ontario in July 1933.

However, during this time, many successful evangelistic meetings were held by W. F. Cox, J. C. Bailey and others. It was not unusual for those meetings to last two to three weeks at a time.

During this period of time, a number of members began a new work on Tecumseh Road East with assistance from members in Detroit, Michigan, especially Daniel Bateman and his son Ross, Gordon Boustead, and Dave Hands.

Winnifred (Davison) and Ira Knapp, both blind, began meeting with the brethren at Campbell and College.

### *1930*

The annual June meeting of the churches of Christ of Ontario was held May 31 to June 2. at the Wyandotte Public School (now J. E. Benson), Wyandotte and McEwan Avenue.

William Horrocks solemnized the marriages of John and Mary "Polly" Rambo July 1930, and Robert and Agnes (Mackie) Dockeray April 1932.

In January 1938, William Bate, Joseph Russell and Ralph Sherrington were appointed as deacons.

Annie Keenan, who came from Scotland in 1934, was attempting to contact Adam Bruce in the church in Windsor. She came in contact with the outreach work on Tecumseh Road East and, eventually through the help of her employer, was able to contact Adam Bruce. She began assembling with the saints at College and Campbell. We continue to be blessed with the faithful attendance of Annie who is now in her 98th year.

During these years, the ladies in the congregation were actively engaged in benevolent work and teaching in the Bible School classes. Eliza Dawson, Eleanor Quayle and Florence Thompson were some whose enthusiasm was very helpful.

#### *1941 - 1942*

The outreach work on Tecumseh Road East was suspended in January 1941 due to a lack of manpower and funds. During those war years, the ladies of the congregation worked diligently preparing and sending parcels to servicemen overseas.

In 1942 Adam Bruce, Charles Wren and James Dawson, Sr., were appointed elders. Arthur Thompson, James Atherton, Sr., and Robert Dockeray were appointed deacons.

#### *1951*

In February 1951 several families once again attempted to begin a new work in the city of Windsor. They first held Bible school in the home of Hank and Nell Monforton and met in an upstairs room above Dobson's Hardware on Tecumseh Road East near Arthur.

Property was purchased at Milloy and Arthur Road, and a basement structure built on the site. The following members composed the original number. Bill and Isabelle Brown, Hank and Nell Monforton, Bob and Jessie Liles, Chuck and Jessie Robinson, Jim and Mae Atherton, Jim and Bessie Reid. They were later joined by Tom and Jean

Hamilton, Mary Taylor, and Annie Brown.

Training classes in singing, personal work, speaking and teaching were conducted by evangelists Ellis Crum, C. R. Turner and Herschel Ottwell. Carl Ketcherside conducted some services also. A good number of souls were added to the Lord's family there.

The work of the church at 405 Curry continued. Tom Woodward enriched the atmosphere of the interior of the building by a beautiful wall mural at the baptistery and a sign above: "One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism."

### *1959*

In October, eight were baptized into Christ during special meetings conducted by J.C. Bailey at 405 Curry Avenue.

### *1960*

In July the congregation departed from their practice of mutual preaching, and John Bailey began working with the congregation as a full-time evangelist. In September John and Rosalyn were married in Texas and both returned to Windsor to continue with the work here.

In October, because of a need to consolidate the work at Curry, the members from the east side returned to worship again with those at Curry.

### *1961*

In April, William Brown was appointed an elder. Thomas Hamilton and James Atherton, Jr., were appointed deacons.

The Bible school grew to 135, and there was a need to partition the basement of the building to compensate.

### *1963*

Ray Miller and his family came to work with the congregation in July, and continued until April 1968.

## 1965

Charles Wren, due to poor health and the loss of his wife, resigned as an elder in November after having served the congregation for 41 years. He passed away in August 1967. His wife, Margaret, who predeceased him, was well known for her wonderful ladies meeting talks and her inspiring personal letters which she wrote.

A three-week campaign was held in July with guest speakers E. C. Meadows, Don Deffenbaugh, and Bobby Key. During this campaign there were six baptisms.

## 1966 - 1968

A building committee consisting of William Brown, Tom Hamilton, Sr., Ray Miller, James Atherton, Jr., James Dawson, Jr., Ronald Dockeray, and Charles Robinson was formed. It was their responsibility to locate suitable property for a new building, find a buyer for the property at 405 Curry, and arrange for financing.

Property was acquired at the present site in February 1967.

Bert Thompson and his family came in November 1968 to work with the congregation. He assisted, not only in the transition period from the Curry Avenue building to this building, but also worked along with other brethren in the construction of the new building. The brethren had a mind to work.

## 1970

In August, it was resolved to employ Michael Bachuk from Hamilton, Ontario, to act as general contractor for the construction of this present building.

The congregation was saddened by the sudden death of Adam Bruce during an operation to insert a pacemaker. He lived and served the congregation here in Windsor from the time of its inception to his death in 1970. Adam served as a deacon and an elder during his constant and devoted service to the Lord Jesus Christ here in Windsor. It was unfortunate that Adam did not realize the goal of attending services in the new building that he had envisioned. He was spared, however, to see it being erected.

During the 1970s, the young people arranged many outings and activities with the first campathon held at Wheatley Park, Ontario, in the summer of 1970. This outing